

## **REMARKS**

The objection to claim 2 has been overcome by deleting “to fill the predetermined number of the recesses, and”, and deleting “at respective locations of the predetermined number of the recesses”. Other amendments to claim 2 were made to better define the invention, for reasons unrelated to patentability. In addition, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, to include the features of independent claim 1 before amendment. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of Yoshida ‘819. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection by reciting “a protrusion or a slit for controlling orientation of liquid crystal molecules at one of the pixel electrodes of the thin film transistor substrate and...the counter substrate”. This feature is described in connection with the third and fourth embodiments, starting on page 21 of the present specification. The added feature of amended claim 1 controls orientation of the liquid crystal molecules when voltage is applied, resulting in a wide angle visibility. This feature of amended claim 1 is not disclosed (or suggested) by the cited reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Yoshida merely discloses a flattening layer for filling a contact hole, and a spacer for maintaining a cell gap. In contrast, amended claim 2 recites that a cell gap maintaining columnar layer is formed in a recess, and maintains the cell gap, as described in connection with the fifth embodiment in the specification. This feature of amended claim 2

is not disclosed (or suggested) in Yoshida. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Applicants traverse the rejection of amended claim 3 for the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

Dependent claim 4 recites an exposing step by a photo mask for filling the hole at the contact hole, making it possible to fill the hole more certainly. This feature is also not found in the cited reference, and withdrawal of this rejection is also requested.

Dependent claim 5 stands rejected under § 103 on the basis of Yoshida and Kurauchi et al. '572. Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

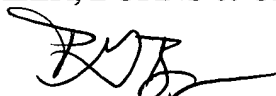
New dependent claims 6-8 are allowable for the reasons given for their respective independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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